

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

July 5, 2011

As the Director of Regional Planning reported to the Board of Supervisors this past year, the Santa Monica Mountains North Area Plan and the North Area Community Standards District (CSD) effectively preserves that area’s sensitive natural environment in a number of key ways. These measures include limits on the amount of grading that that the County will allow without demanding additional environmental and public review, and strict limits on ridgeline development. These environmental rules have been so successful in the Santa Monica Mountains that they have provided models for new rules in at least three Community Standards Districts (in Altadena, Elizabeth Lake and Lake Hughes, and San Francisquito Canyon) adopted by the Board of Supervisors over the last two years.

However, as the County worked to complete its draft Santa Monica Mountains Local Coastal Program (LCP), it became clear that the North Area CSD, which has never fully implemented the goals and policies of the North Area Plan, would require additional measures to fully protect the public’s investment in the National Recreation Area, preserve water quality and sensitive species, promote the rural and equestrian

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lifestyle, and promote recreational opportunities for all County residents. In a report to the Board of Supervisors on November 9, 2010, the Director of Regional Planning noted that these goals could be achieved by translating many of the rules and policies developed for the draft LCP into the North Area CSD.

These rules and policies are far-reaching, and they have broad community support. In fact, when the draft LCP was brought before the Board of Supervisors for its public hearing, it received nearly unanimous support from homeowners, environmental groups, park agencies, and the equestrian community and trails advocates. The County of Los Angeles should capitalize on the work that has already been done on the draft Santa Monica Mountains LCP and, as recommended in his report to the Board of Supervisors, formally authorize and instruct the Director of Regional Planning to initiate the process of amending the Santa Monica Mountains North Area CSD.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Director of Regional Planning to initiate the process of updating the North Area Community Standards District in accordance with the Report to the Board of Supervisors issued on November 9, 2010, along with any revisions to the North Area Plan needed to retain consistency with the goals of protecting rural communities, environmental resources, recreational opportunities, and public investment in the Santa Monica Mountains, and submit the draft ordinance and any associated plan amendments to the Regional Planning Commission for its consideration at the soonest practicable time.

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